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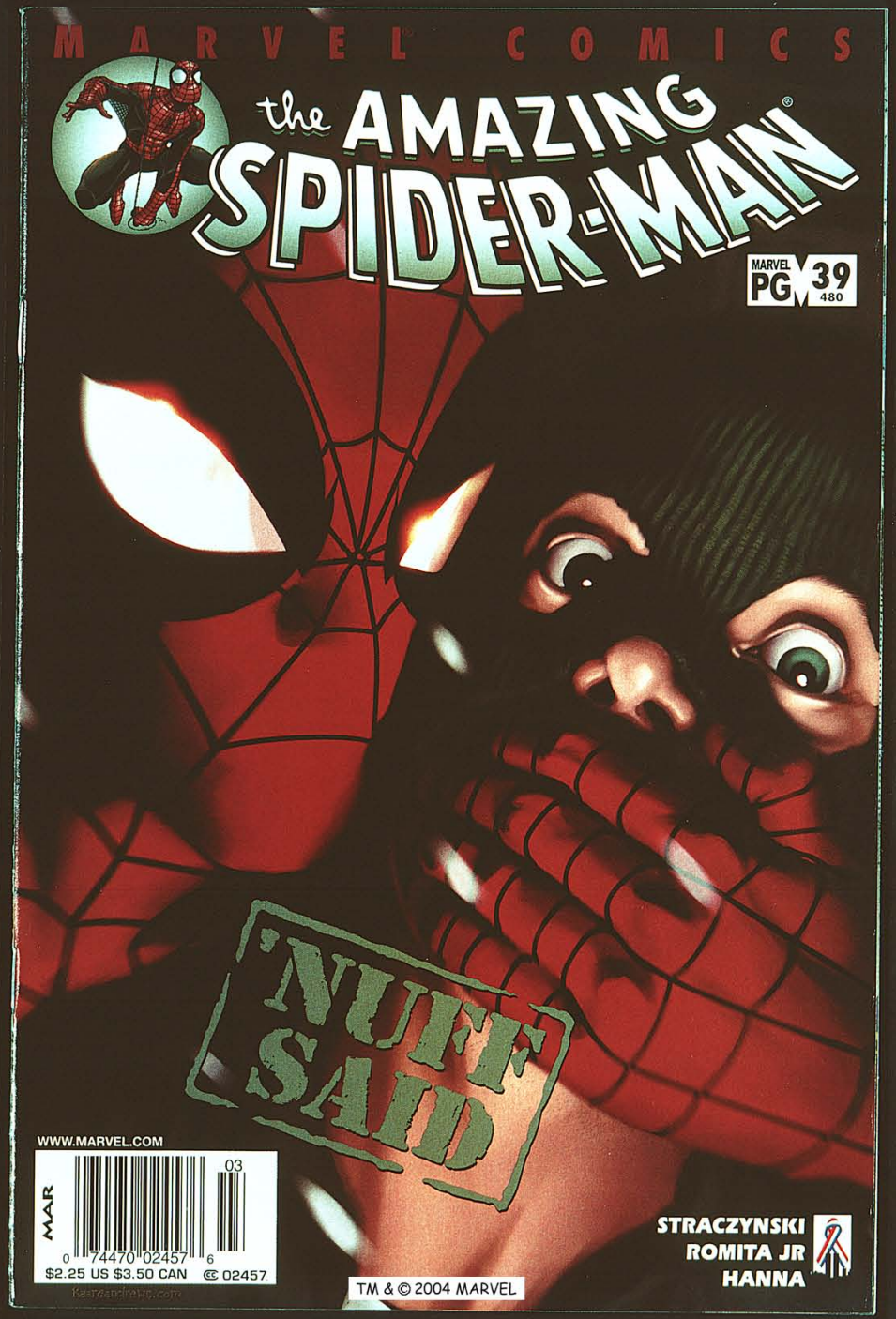

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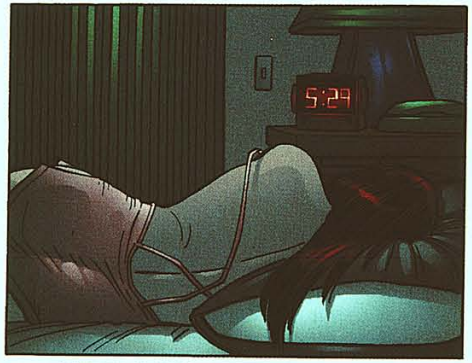

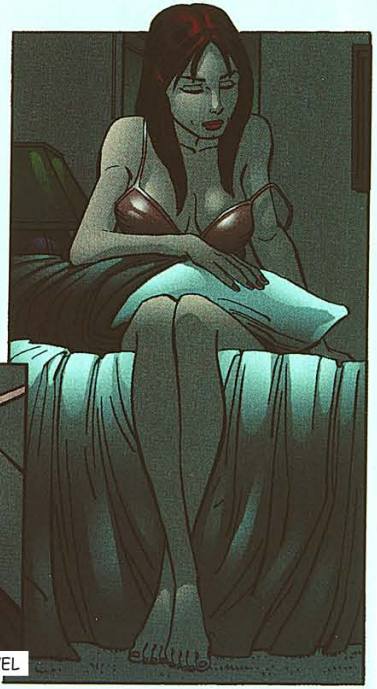

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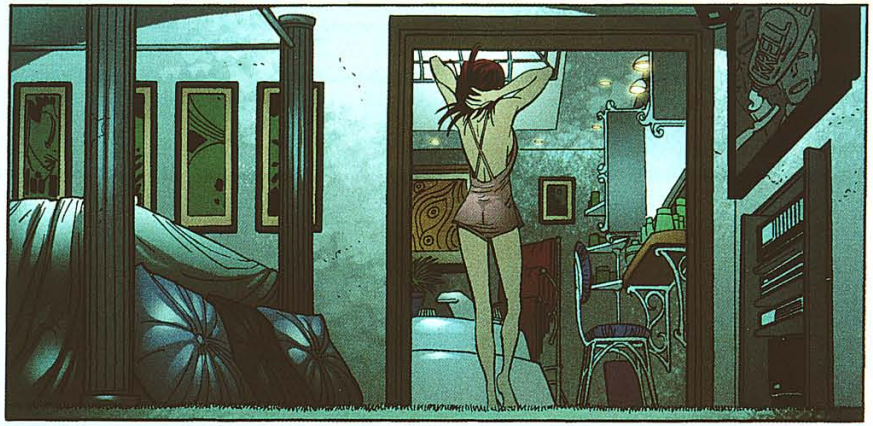

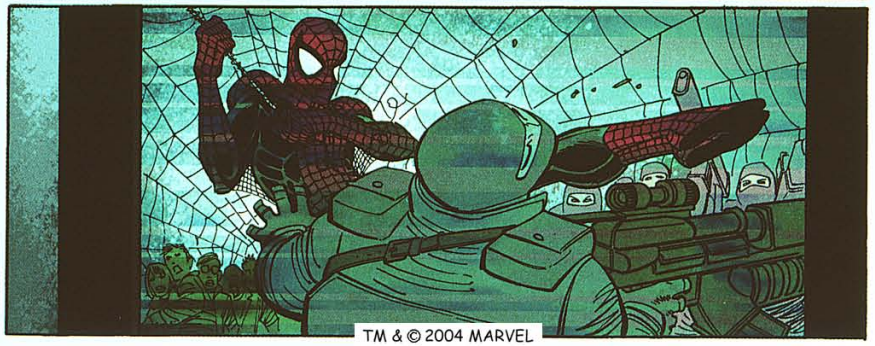

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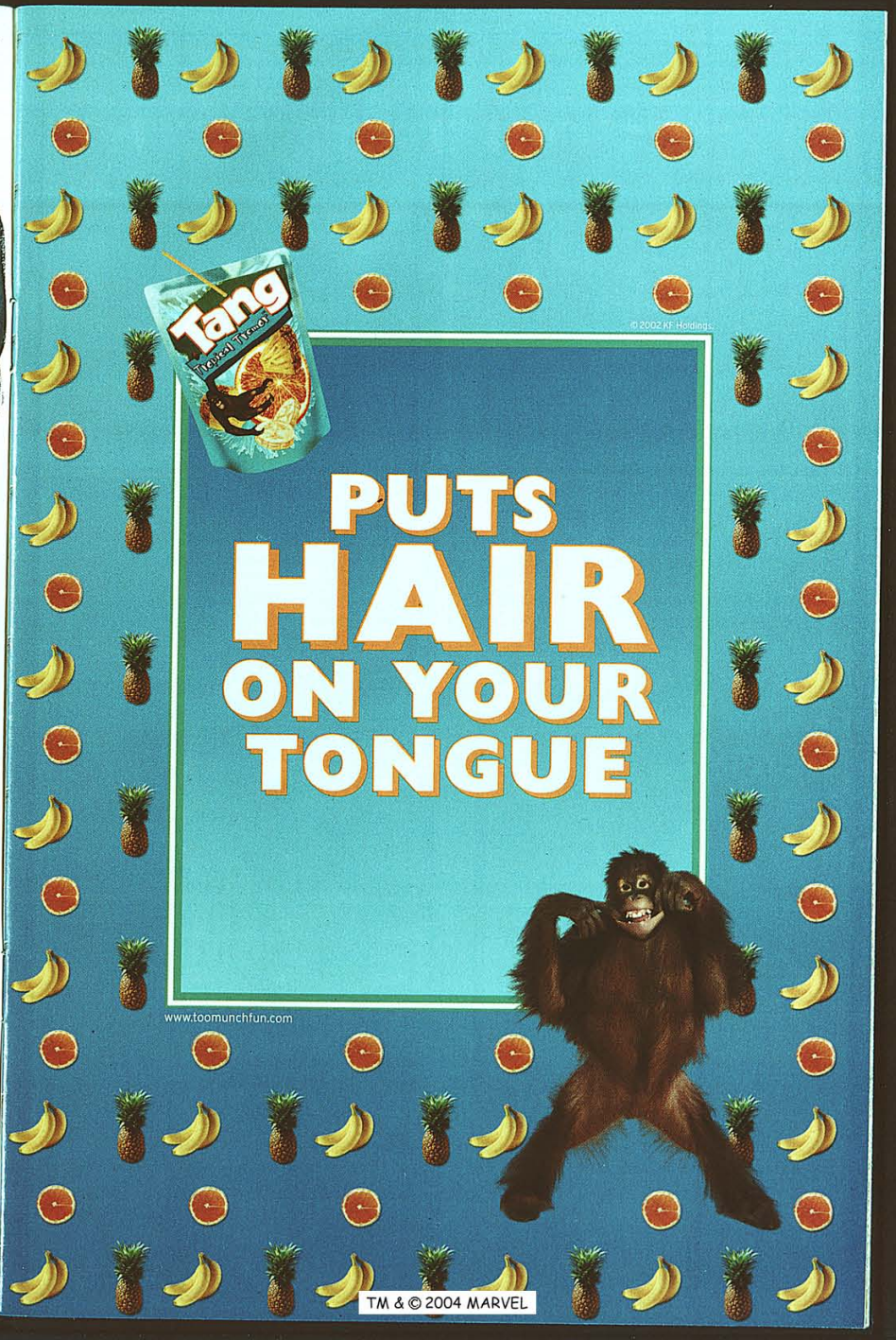
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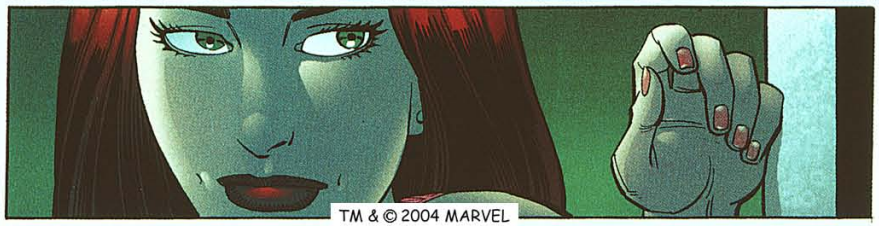

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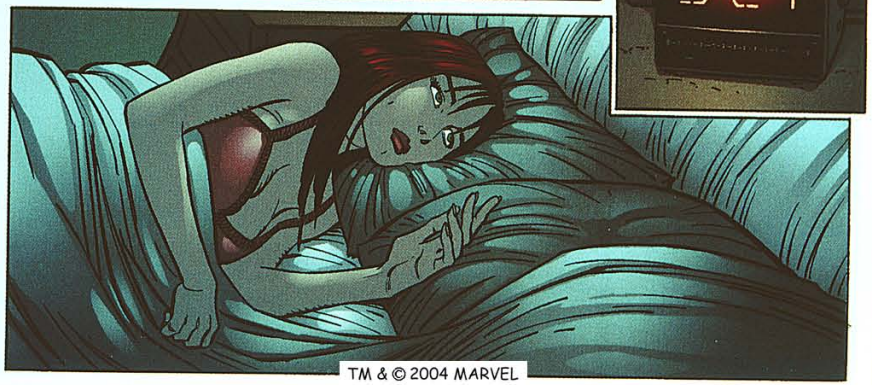

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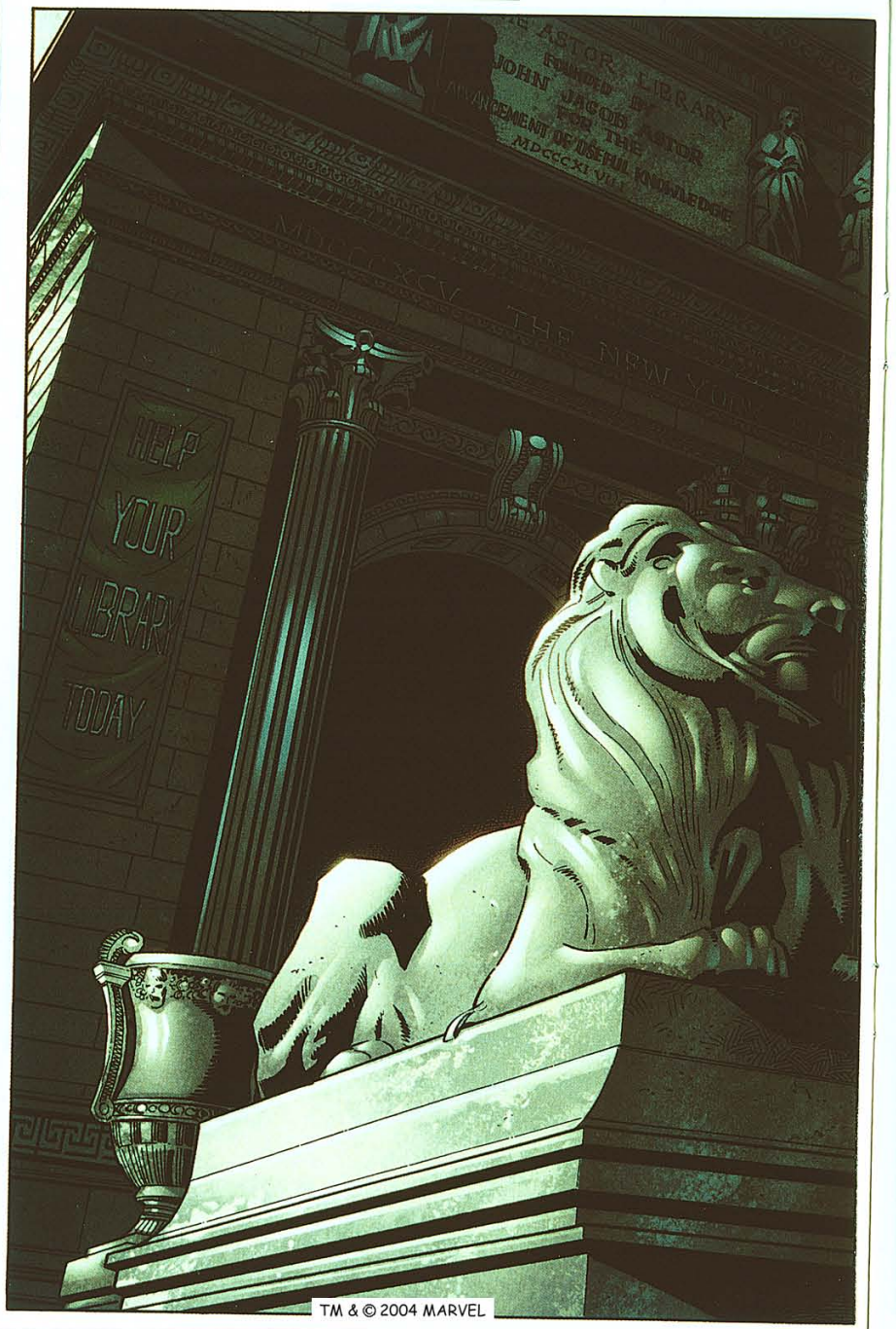

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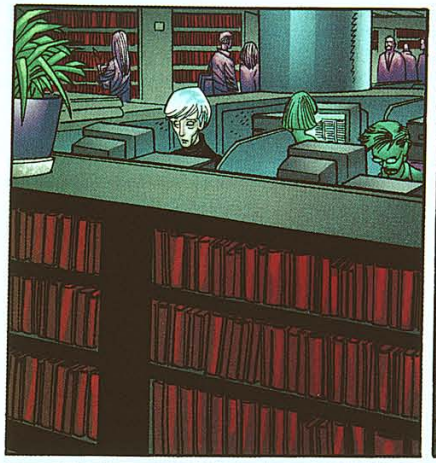

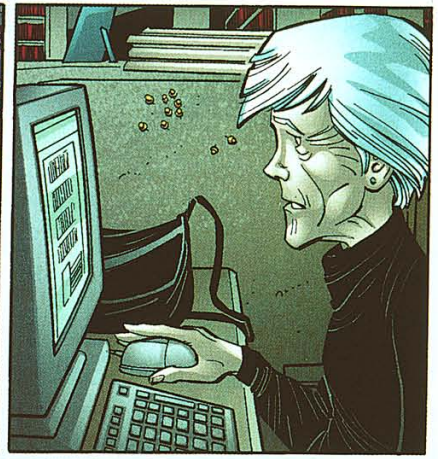

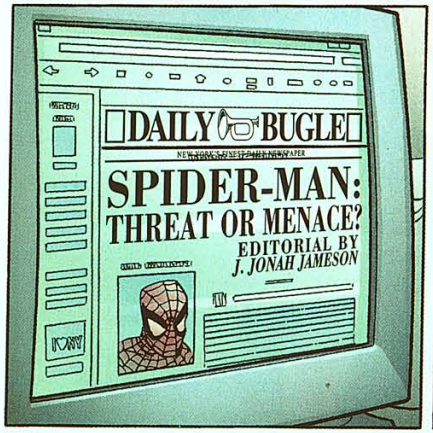

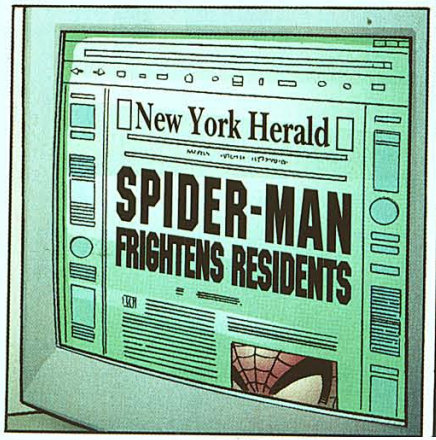

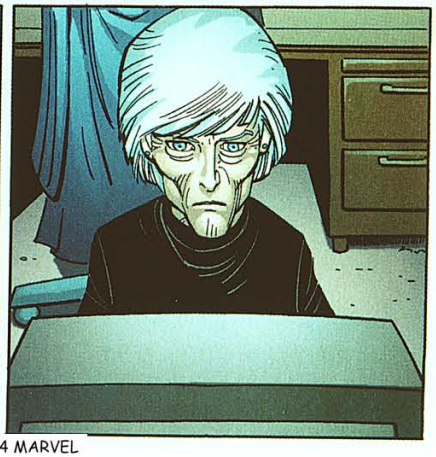

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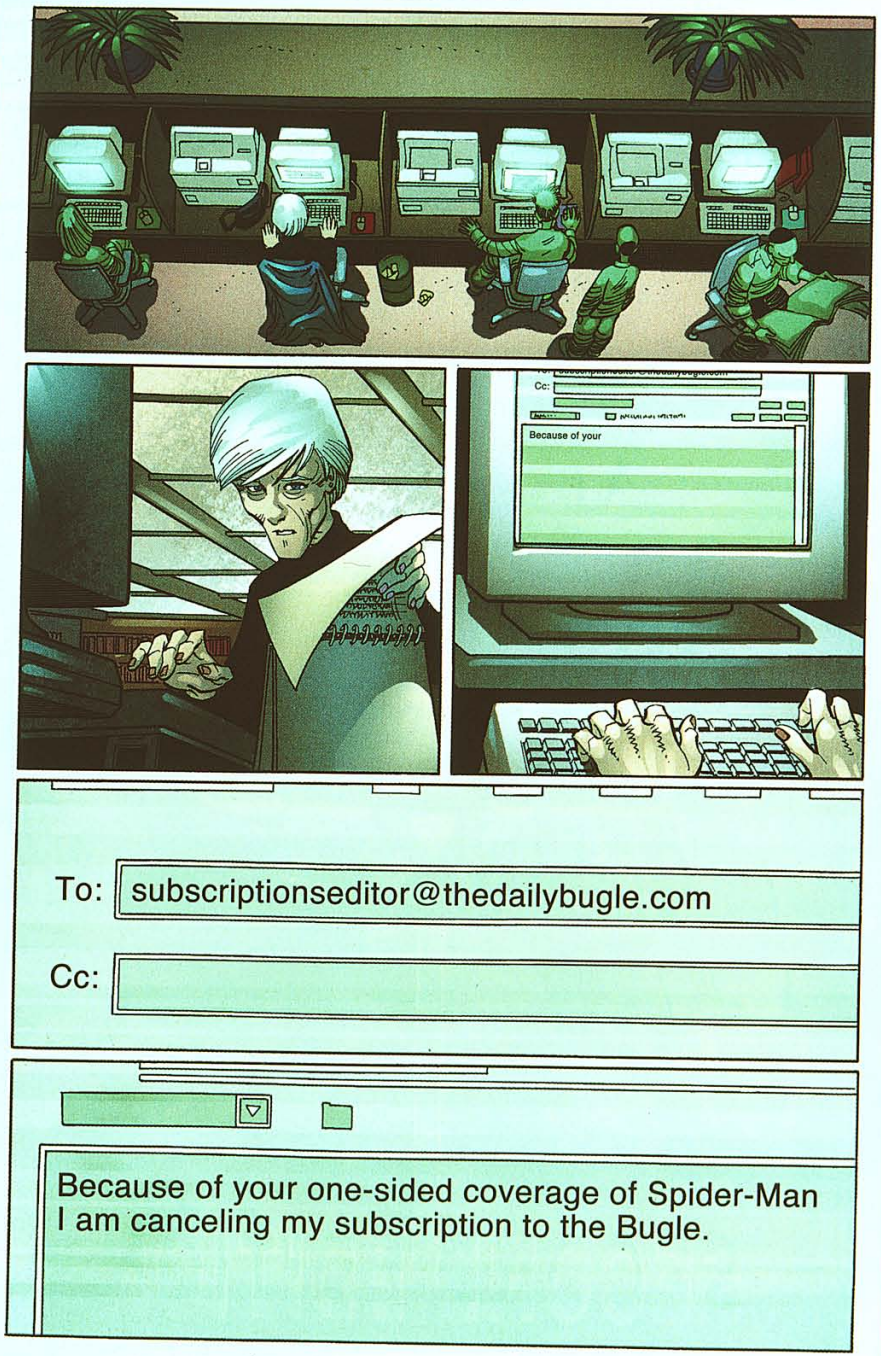

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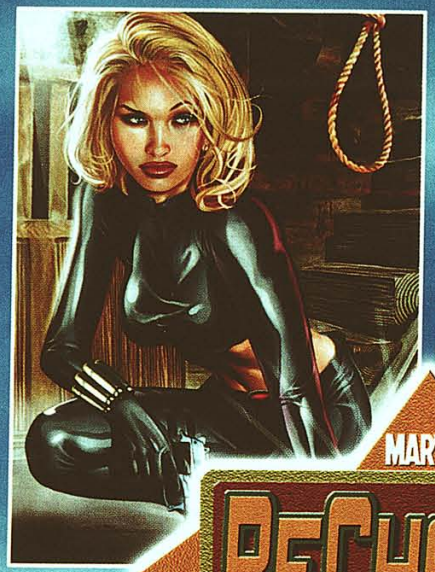

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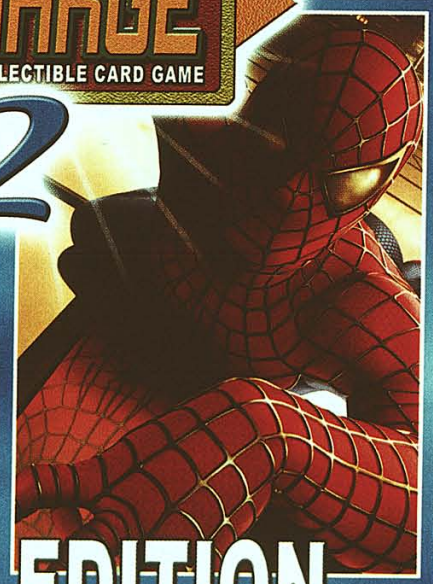

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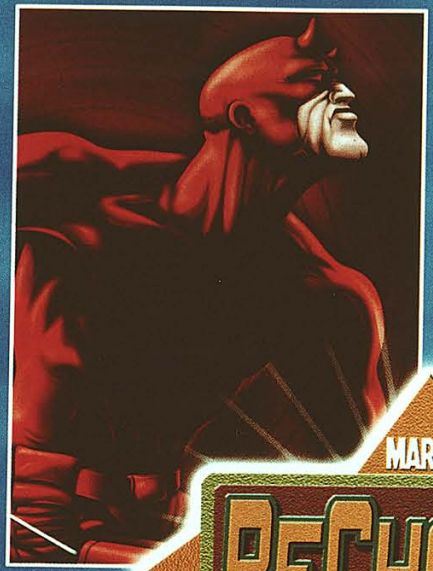

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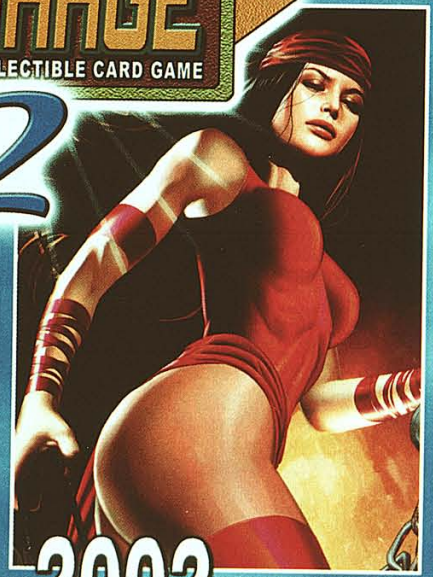

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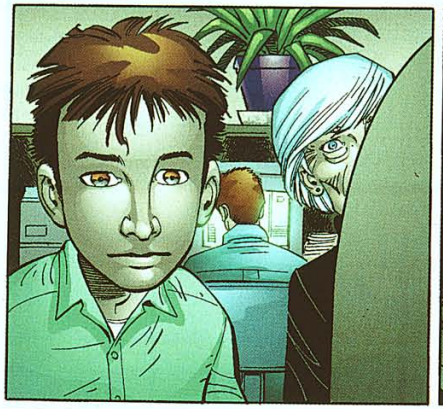

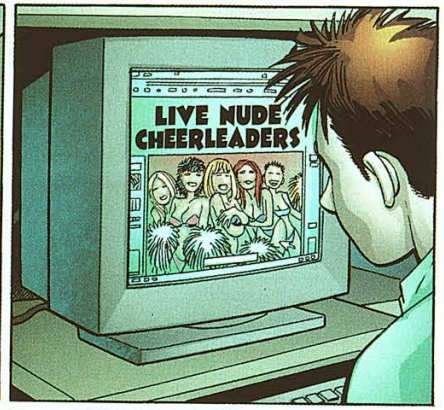

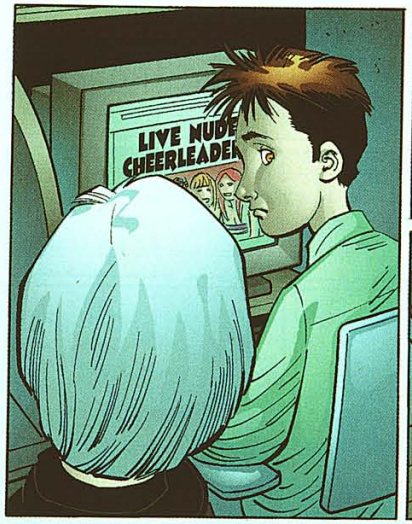

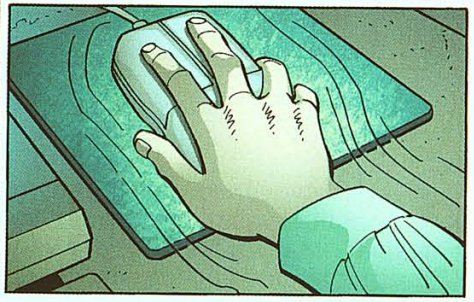

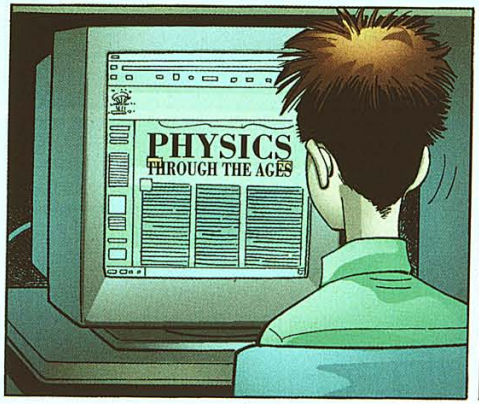

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To: The Letterman Show

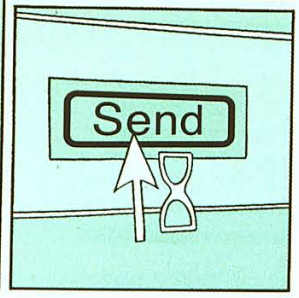
To: The Tonight Show

To: Larry King

To: Dan Rather

To: Oprah Winfrey

Have you ever considered doing a show about the lives of such super heroes as Spider-Man? I feel they are very misunderstood by the American people. I'm sure that beneath that mask there is a good person, a kind person, a good face, someone who may have been awkward as a child and always has to check the door before he goes out to make sure it's locked, but still a good and kind person who could profit from the exposure your fine program would provide to help set the record straight and see him for the decent, loving, occasionally vegetarian person he is.



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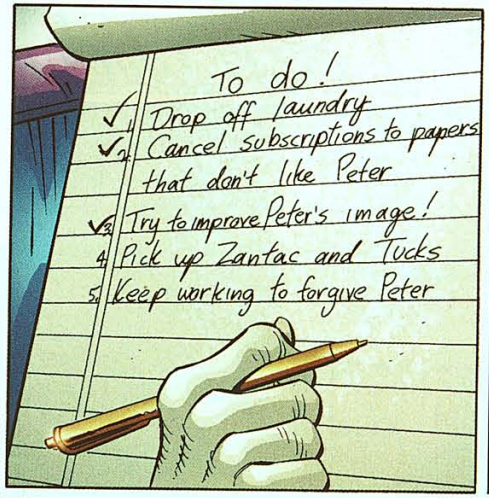

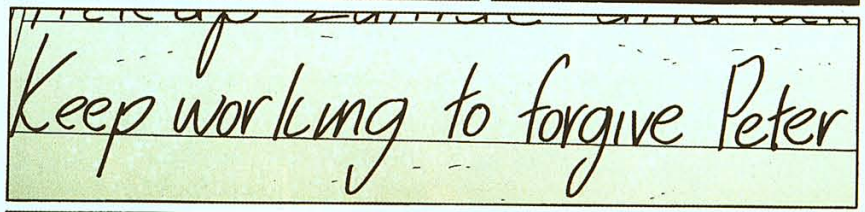

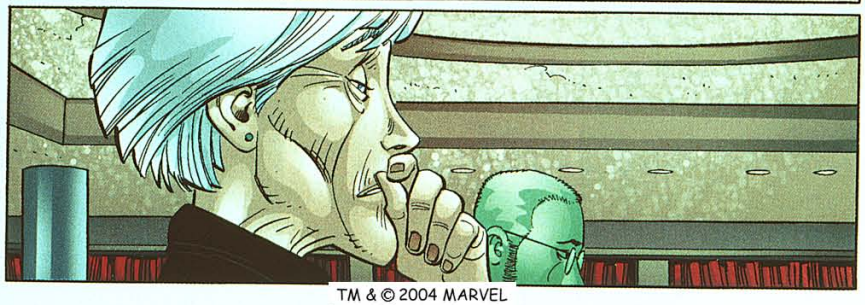

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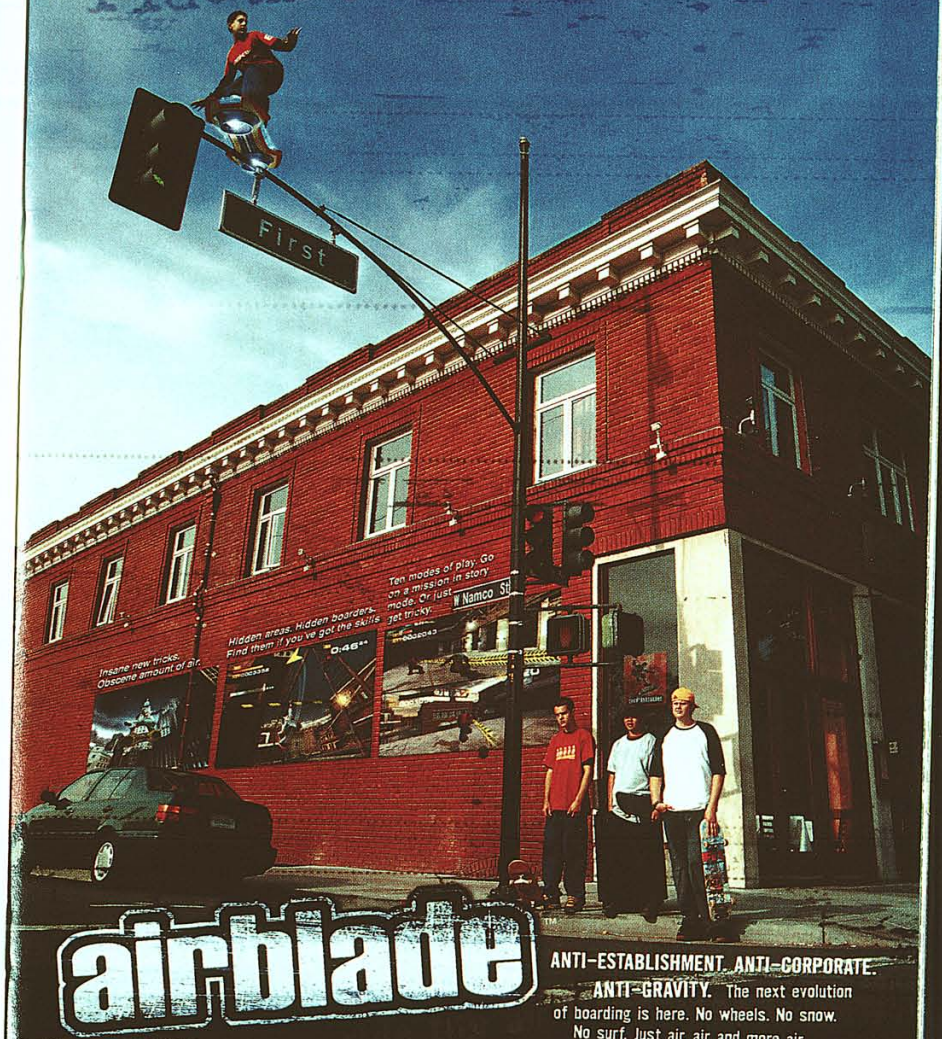

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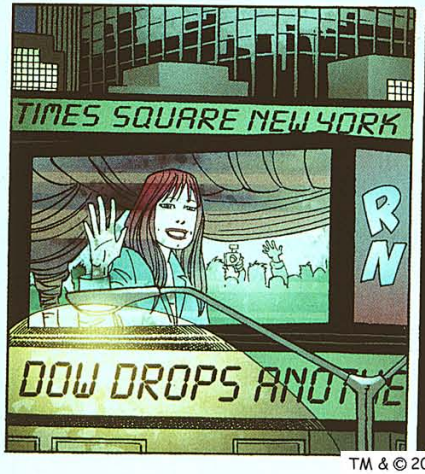

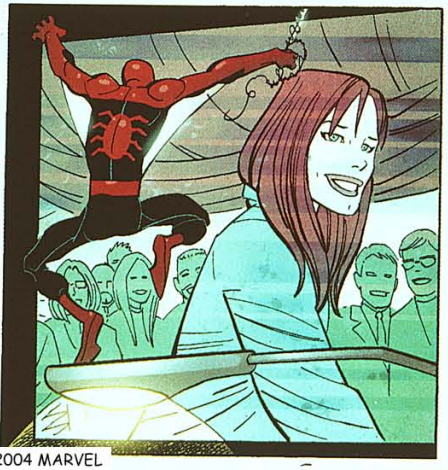

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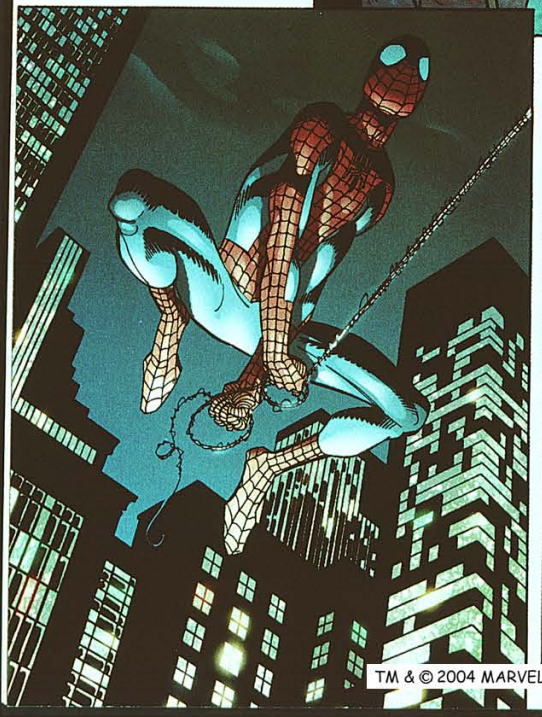

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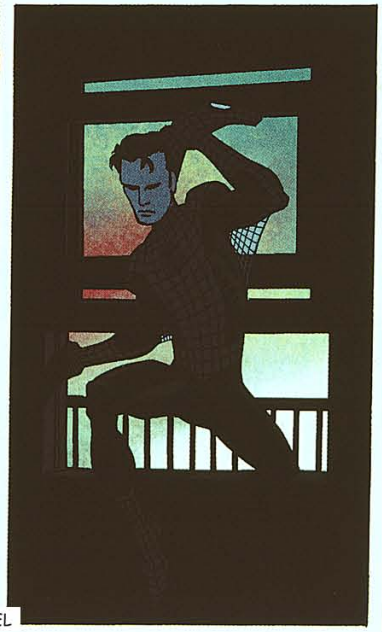

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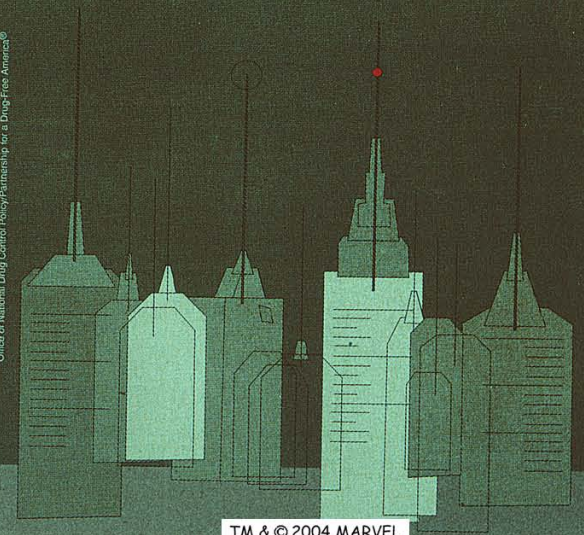

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'NUFF SAID

We dared them.

That's right, almost a year ago, Marvel Prez Bill Jemas and EIC Joe Quesada hatched a test for the Mighty Marvel Maestros: Since you are the best artists and writers in the biz, we challenge you to tell a story using visuals only. After all, if a picture is worth a thousand words, then a comic book filled with images only would be worth... well, more words than the Collector could count!

And if you think creating a story with no words is half the work, think again, True Believer! The writer has to craft a story using no dialogue or caption boxes to communicate information — and pencilers have to make sure their storytelling is so clear that text isn't needed to explain what's going on.

Just to show you how our Mighty Marvel Maestros met the challenge, and to give you a unique peek behind the curtain, here's the plot to the very story you just read! Just compare it to the art and you'll see how the dare was done!

PAGE ONE

FULL PAGE
A penthouse building in Los Angeles. Dawn.

1 T&C MEANWHILE...
J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI – WRITER
JOHN ROMITA, JR. – PENCILS
SCOTT HANNA – INKS
DAN KEMP – COLORS
COMICRAFT – LETTERS
AXEL ALONSO – EDITOR
JOHN MIESEGAES – ASSISTANT EDITOR
JOE QUESADA – CHIEF
BILL JEMAS – PRES

PAGE TWO

PANEL ONE
Mary Jane in something knee-bucklingly revealing. She's lying on one side of the bed. What you do when you've been used to sleeping with someone for a long time and they're not there anymore. The other side of the bedding is barely even pulled back. She's facing –

J. Michael Straczynski
Amazing Spider-Man #39

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Eve & Basement Jaxx
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PANEL TWO
The alarm clock. 5:29 A.M.

PANEL THREE
Close on Mary Jane's face. Sad.

PANEL FOUR
She's getting up, slipping off the shoulder strap as she rises.

PAGE THREE

PANEL ONE
The bedroom leading to the bathroom. The TV is on, silent, at one end of the bedroom. There's a commercial for Krell Toothpaste. We get a sense of MJ inside the bathroom, going about her business.

PANEL TWO
Same exact angle, a little later. There's a newscaster on the TV now, sitting somewhere inside a studio.

PANEL THREE
Same again, but now a reporter in the field, outside, with a hand mike, is on camera. MJ still hasn't come out.

PANEL FOUR
There's now footage of Spider-Man swinging by, in action, saving people from a terrorist-looking guy firing a huge gun.

PAGE FOUR

PANEL ONE
MJ has emerged, barely wearing a towel, and is now standing in front of the TV, watching the report on Spider-Man.

PANEL TWO
Ditto. He's carrying people out of harm's way. She hasn't moved.

PANEL THREE
We've gone to commercial. Fandangoing frankfurters onscreen. She's heading back to the bathroom.

PANEL FOUR
She's back inside the bathroom, the commercial continuing out here.

PAGE FIVE

PANEL ONE
MJ on a beach in LA, modeling a micro-small bathing suit, smiling a million-dollar smile for the photographer and his support crew.

TM & © 2004 MARVEL

PANEL TWO
Flashbulbs go off; she's turning it all loose.

PANEL THREE
Later. She's sitting by herself in an outdoor coffee shop. Eyes down. Lost in thought.

PANEL FOUR
Some of the crew goes by, waving. She's all smiles again, waving back.

PANEL FIVE
Same as panel three. When they're gone, the pretense falls away.

PAGE SIX

PANEL ONE
A big Hollywood premiere at the Chinese Theater. Limos. Spotlights. Fans piled behind red velvet ropes. A red carpet leading to the theater. The movie's title is RAVING MADMEN, and a banner says THE FUNNIEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR - Los Angeles Times.

PANEL TWO
A limo has pulled up and MJ is getting out. More flashbulbs, more of the million dollar smile.

PANEL THREE
She moves down the red carpet, smiling and waving, more flashbulbs.

PANEL FOUR
A raking angle past MJ in one of the theater seats, so we see those behind and beside her, laughing uproariously at the OS screen, the light from which spills onto the seats a bit. She's looking down, not smiling, not sad, just...distant.

PANEL FIVE
She emerges from the theater, smiling and waving again.

PANEL SIX
Her limo pulls away from the curb.

PAGE SEVEN

PANEL ONE
Back in her bedroom, night, she's in the bathroom, getting ready for bed. The TV is on. It looks like a hospital drama.

TM & © 2004 MARVEL

PANEL TWO
Same as one; there's a commercial for new improved Flense! She's still in the bathroom, just a corner of her visible.

PANEL THREE
The repeat of the Spider-Man story comes on the TV.

PANEL FOUR
She's out again, this time in her lingerie, watching the story.

PANEL FIVE
Same as panel four.

PAGE EIGHT

PANEL ONE
She's getting into bed. On just the one side.

PANEL TWO
Lights are out. She's in bed. Sleeping on one side.

PANEL THREE
The alarm clock reads 11:30.

PANEL FOUR
On MJ, who is awake.

PANEL FIVE
The alarm clock reads 5:29.

PANEL SIX
On MJ, who is awake and looking at the other, unoccupied pillow. Missing Peter.

PAGE NINE

FULL PAGE
The New York Public Library, morning.

PAGE TEN

PANEL ONE
Aunt May in the reference area of the library, where they keep the microfiche files for magazine and newspaper archives. She's sitting at one of these microfiche booths.

PANEL TWO
Closer to find her looking at the screen, which is filled with newsprint we can't read, though from the banner we can tell it's the Daily Bugle.

J. Michael Straczynski
Amazing Spider-Man #39

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PANEL THREE
Close on the Bugle headline.

1 TEXT: DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN: THREAT OR MENACE?

PANEL FOUR
On Aunt May's look of annoyance.

PANEL FIVE
Close on New York Herald headline.

2 TEXT THE NEW YORK HERALD
SPIDER-MAN FRIGHTENS RESIDENTS

PANEL SIX
More annoyance from Aunt May.

PAGE ELEVEN

PANEL ONE
Another headline, this time the Brooklyn Banner:

1 TEXT BROOKLYN BANNER
SPIDER-MAN, MISUNDERSTOOD?

PANEL TWO
She looks a bit more mollified.

PANEL THREE
A sitting area in the library. May has a notepad in front of her and a Cappuccino from Starhacks. She's thinking.

PANEL FOUR
Same as panel 3.

PANEL FIVE
The cup of coffee is in the trash she's heading across the library.

PAGE TWELVE

PANEL ONE
A panel showing May in front of a typewriter on a table in the library. She's looking off to --

PANEL TWO
Actually an extension of panel one showing the rest of the table taken up by computers.
PANEL THREE
May is behind one of the terminals, typing (too small to read)

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1 TEXT: TO: SUBSCRIPTIONSEDITOR@NEWYORKHERALD.COM
CC:

Because of your

PANEL FOUR
CLOSE on the CRT, which reads

2 TEXT: TO: SUBSCRIPTIONEDITOR@THEDAILYBUGLE.COM
CC:

PANEL FIVE
Further down the screen

3 TEXT Because of your one-sided coverage of Spider-Man I am canceling my subscription to the Bugle.

PAGE THIRTEEN

PANEL ONE
On the CRT which reads --

1 TEXT: TO: SUBSCRIPTIONSEDITOR@NEWYORKHERALD.COM
CC:

Because of your one-sided coverage of Spider-Man
I am canceling my subscription to the Herald.

PANEL TWO
Looking back to May for a moment then

PANEL THREE
On the CRT which reads --

2 TEXT TO: SUBSCRIPTIONSEDITOR@BROOKLYNBANNER.COM
CC:

Because of your even-handed coverage of Spider-Man
I wish to subscribe to your fine publication.

PANEL FOUR
Aunt May leans back, smiling.

PANEL FIVE
She looks to the CRT booth next to hers.

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- ❑ CAM Captain America
- ❑ CMV Captain Marvel
- ❑ FAN Fantastic Four
- ❑ INC Hulk
- ❑ IRM Iron Man
- ❑ THO Thor
- ❑ BLT Thunderbolts

SPIDER-MAN
- ❑ AMZ Amazing Spider-Man
- ❑ SPI Peter Parker, Spider-Man
- ❑ TAW Spider-Man: Tangled Web

X-MEN
- ❑ CAB Cable
- ❑ DDP Deadpool
- ❑ EXL Exiles
- ❑ XME Uncanny X-Men
- ❑ WOL Wolverine
- ❑ XFO X-Force
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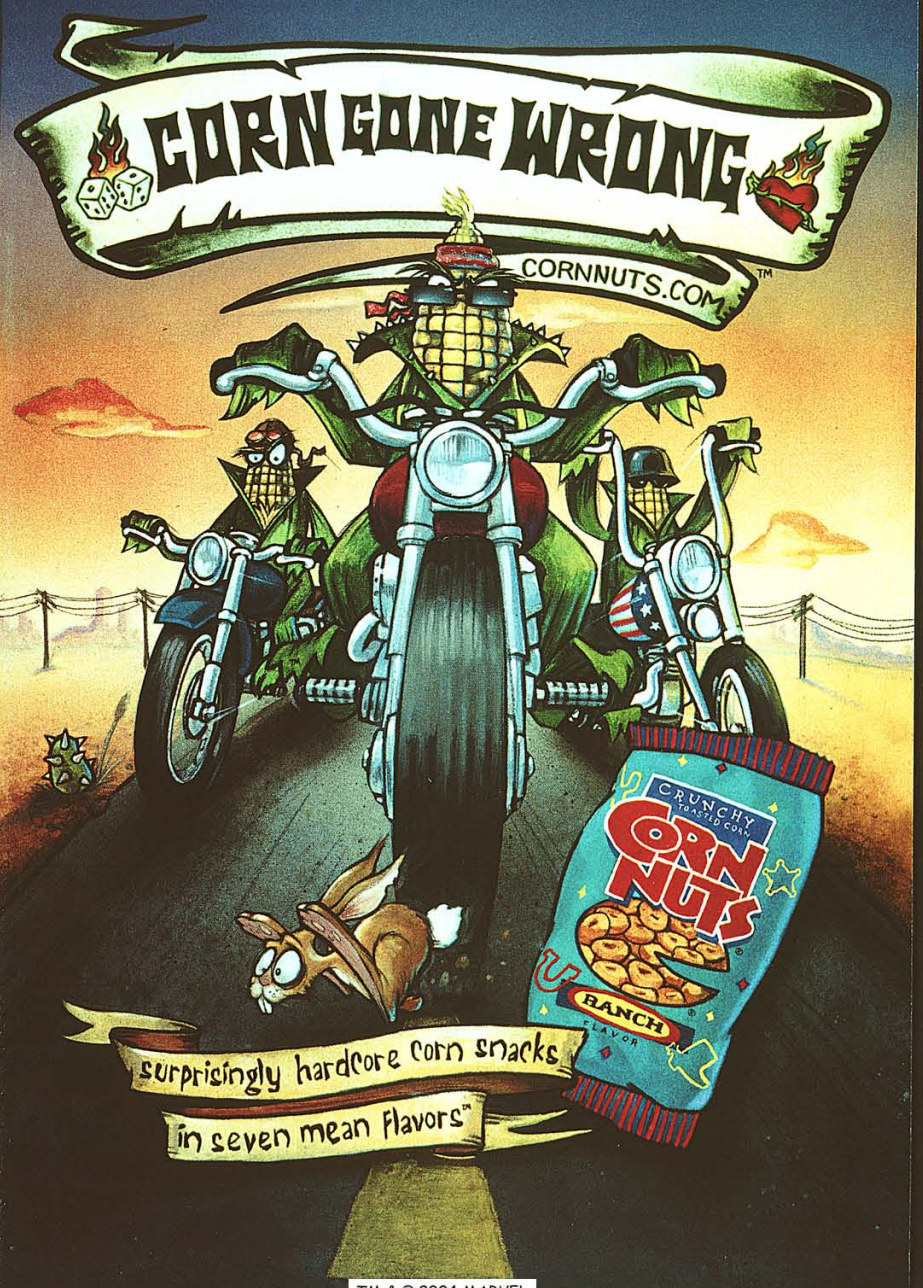

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